



## September 16, 2009 Program

On September 16<sup>th</sup> the club will host one of the industry's most knowledgeable and passionate experts on yeast. Sigrid Gertsen-Briand will once again wow the club by bringing alive all those little critters that make wine possible! No one does it better than Sigrid. This is a must for newcomers and a great review for the rest of us. Sigrid

will give us "Seven Keys to Great Fermentation" and also speak on "Choosing Yeast Strains."

See you there!



## Executive Board Meeting: October 7, 2009

The October Board meeting will be at DD and Jo Smith's home. Bring snacks & wine to share, beginning at 6:00 PM. The meeting starts promptly at 6:45PM. All club members are welcome to attend. Contact DD if you need directions.

## September 2009 President's Message

High season harvest! An exciting and busy few weeks of the year when patience and endurance is everything. By the time you read this, over 30 fellow members will be gearing up to crush over four tons of merlot together in El Dorado county for the club project. It should be quite a crazy day, definitely fun if you are participating, or new to the club and winemaking. But also just a good time getting together with friends in the field, hands on grapes, to do what we spend all year talking about--this crazy, sticky, intense thing we call winemaking. By the way, if you participated last year in Barbera, you should have received an email on reducing acidity. For many, including me, we need to tease the tartness out but once you do, it has fabulous flavor in my opinion. I am taking another shot at MLF in hopes of finishing mine. If that doesn't do it the chemicals are next. Stick with it.

Look for details in the newsletter this month about our upcoming Harvest Moon wine supper on Oct. 25. We have seats for just 80 people this year which is typically how many attend but given the venue and

extra special menu, you will want to get confirmed early to attend.

Have you considered running for office? We are looking for a new VP for 2010. After a rock solid year of stellar programming, DD Smith would like to take a breather and focus on Chief Judge next year. This is a great opportunity to get more involved and share your talent and imagination. After all, SHW's existence depends on members to take a turn at bat. This is your Club, so don't hold back. Please email or call to discuss if considering it. Nominate yourself or someone else. Elections will be next month.

Hope to see you at the September meeting if not in the field!

Cheers,

Lynn Keay  
2009 SHW President



## **SWH Harvest Dinner is Coming!**

Each year, the crush brings us up close and personal with tons of ripe berries, vigorous fermentations, wine stained clothing, testing, experimenting, and tasting that ultimately produces our prized vintages. Afterwards, the annual harvest dinner allows us a chance to sit back, relax and enjoy the fruits of our labor.

We are excited to celebrate the end of the 2009 Harvest with a fabulous six course, seated dinner in the Tower Bridge Bistro restaurant of the Embassy Suites in Old Sacramento on Sunday afternoon from 2-5pm on October 25. The hotel owner, John Kehriotis, and his executive chef, Clay Purcell, are hosting a delicious tailored menu of gourmet creations, specially designed for our group for the amazing price of only **\$35 per person including tax, tip, and corkage**. You won't want to miss out! See the menu below and pay close attention to **reservation/parking instructions** below and **special \$119 rate lodging option** for guests who would like to make a special night of it or who live out of town.

**Due to seating limitations of 80 guests, the event must be limited to SHW members and one guest only on a first come, first served basis. Advance reservations and payment is required without exception.** To confirm attendance and get on the reservation list, please email Jenny Keay at [jenniferkeay@gmail.com](mailto:jenniferkeay@gmail.com) or call at 916-802-9585 as early as possible. Send early payment by check made out to "SHW" to P.O. Box 894, Rancho Cordova, CA 95741 or drop off with Mike Touchette at the September 16 meeting. You will receive a confirmation by email or phone once payment is received. Payment for dinner **MUST** be received no later than **October 10**. After the deadline, any unpaid reservations will be offered to members on the waiting list. This is the most equitable way to accommodate everyone who wants to attend.

**Parking:** Free street parking is available in Old Sacramento on Sunday near the restaurant or just a short walk away near the Crocker Art Gallery. Paid parking is available by valet at the hotel or in the garage across the street from the hotel.

**Lodging:** Embassy Suites Sacramento has offered a special block rate of **\$119/night** for our event. If you wish to take advantage of the offer, there are three ways that guests can make discount reservations:

- 1) Click on <http://embassysuites.hilton.com/en/es/groups/personalized/SACESES-SHW-20091025/index.jhtml> and make your reservation.
- 2) Go to [www.sacramento.embassysuites.com](http://www.sacramento.embassysuites.com) and make a reservation using the group/convention code: SHW
- 3) Call 916-326-5006 or 1-800-Embassy and ask for the SHW Harvest Dinner discount rate of \$119/night.

**Please keep in mind that all hotel reservations must be made by October 20.**

**Sacramento Home Wine Makers** at  
Embassy Suites Sacramento - Riverfront Promenade, 100 Capitol Mall

**“Harvest Moon”**

**October 25, 2009**  
**2-5PM**  
(plating to begin at 2:45pm).

**Tower Bridge Bistro**  
Guests to bring “home grown” wines

**MENU**

**Amuse**

**-Rock Shrimp Sauté with Lemon Grass Cream and Sweet Gilroy Garlic on Seared Polenta**  
**suggested: Dry Sauvignon Blanc or Fume Blanc**

**Soup**

**-Roasted Acorn Squash Bisque with Toasted Pumpkin Seeds and Brandy Crème Fraiche**  
**suggested: Flowery Chardonnay or Pinot Noir**

**Salad**

**-Sonoma Duck Breast\* Salad with Grilled Pears, Sliced Almonds, California Endive and Orange Sherry Vinaigrette**  
**suggested: Pinot Noir, Chianti, or a Champagne/Sparkling Wine**

**Intermezzo**

**Blood Orange Sorbet**  
**suggested: Champagne/Sparkling Wine**

**Entrée**

**-Braised Beef Short Rib\* with Wild Mushroom Ragout, Smashed Yukon Gold Potatoes, Toy Box Carrots and Baby Turnips**  
**suggested: Peppery Merlo, Big Chewy Zinfandel or Cabernet Sauvignon**

**Dessert**

**Warm Chocolate Bread Pudding with Crème Anglaise and Sugared Raspberries**  
**suggested: Tawny Port/Brandy**

*\* alternate entrée available upon request for special dietary needs – please inquire*

## **Call for Nominations - 2010 SHW Officers**

Interested in helping shape the club?

The SHW Board of Directors (comprised of the current club president and the 4 immediate past presidents) is accepting nominations for the 2010 Executive Board for the positions of President, Vice President, Secretary, and Membership Chair.

The election for the officers will be held at the November 2009 monthly/annual meeting.

Please forward your nominations to the Board of Directors: Chair Ken Hough, Judy Pinegar, Mike Touchette, Fred Millar, and Lynn Keay. Their contact information is included in the SHW Board of Directors and Committee Chairs section of this newsletter.

Below are brief descriptions of these positions.

*President:* the President is the Chief Executive Officer of the organization. The President appoints all committee chairs, except for the nominating committee and program committee. This position chairs board meetings and leads the monthly club meetings.

*Vice President:* the Vice President acts for the President in the President's absence. The Vice President is the Chair of the Program Committee.

*Secretary:* the Secretary is both recording and corresponding Secretary, and maintains all records of minutes of board meetings.

*Membership Chair:* the Membership Chair promotes new memberships, and coordinates with the Treasurer in collection of dues, and manages the membership records.

### **Not Ready to Run a Campaign?**

If you're not quite ready to be nominated for an elected position, there are many other leadership opportunities in the club. Appointed positions include Librarian, Historian, Newsletter Editor, Chief Judge, Cellarmaster, Hospitality Chair, Mentorship Coordinator, and Competition Coordinator. Additional committee opportunities include chairing the club project, home winery tour, harvest dinner, holiday party and winemaking 101.

If you're interested in other club opportunities or events that are not currently offered, please volunteer (contact any board member) to make them happen! Let's all share in the responsibilities and fun!

## MENTORS AND WEBSITE FORUM

New to winemaking or have a winemaking or vineyard management question? Contact one of the mentors below or post on the forum section of the Club's website at [www.sachomewine.org](http://www.sachomewine.org).



MENTOR	CONTACT INFO	GEOGRAPHICS	MENTOR SPECIALTY
John Benbow	530 888-9130 benbow@wavecable.com	Auburn	Red, white, & sparkling wines
Judy Pinegar	916 652-5198 jpinegar@cde.ca.gov	Loomis	White, red, & fruit wines
Linda Skinner	916 652-5235 linda.skinner@hp.com	Loomis	White wines
Carl & Lili Brust	916 652-9001 lcburst@garlic.com	Loomis	White and sparkling wines
Mike Touchette	530 748-9677 pinotsyrah@yahoo.com	El Dorado	Red and white wines
Gerald Cresci	209 748-2122	Herald	Vineyard management; fruit wines & port
Paul & Nancy Baldwin	916 684-2086 pbaldwin@frontiernet.net	Elk Grove	Red & white wines; vineyard management
John Troiano	916 487-1480 fatcatjt@sbcglobal.net	Carmichael	Red wines
Jim Margolis	916 451-4279 jamadapa@att.net	Sacramento	Red and white wines
Dave Leonard	916 452-1616 dleonardpbp@gmail.com	Sacramento	Red wines
Donna Bettencourt	916 454-5487 bettencourt1045@softcom.net	Sacramento	Red & white wines
Henry Wilkinson	916 446-6276 hbwilkinson@jps.net	Sacramento	Red wines
D. D. Smith	916 638-8849 ddanjo@sbcglobal.net	Gold River	Red, white, port & ice wines
Lynn Keay	lynn.keay@gmail.com	Gold River	Red, white and fruit wines

Interested in becoming a mentor or would like to be partnered with a mentor? Email or call Gin Yang-Staehlin at [ginyangstaehlin@yahoo.com](mailto:ginyangstaehlin@yahoo.com) or 916 217-0294.

## Sacramento Home Winemakers - 2009 Program Calendar

Date	Meeting Topic/Event	Speaker/Panel/Committee
September 12	2009 Club Project – Red Wine - Harvest!	Coordinator: Lynn Keay
September 16	All About Fermentation	Sigrid Gertsen-Briand, Lallemand
October 7	Board Meeting	DD & Jo Smith's Home
October 21	Fruit/Dessert/Bubbly/Port Evaluations	Darrell Corti
October 25	Harvest Dinner	Jennifer Keay
November 18	Gold Medal Winners; Officer Elections; Travelogues	Club Members
December 16	Holiday Party	Coordinator: Debra Moreton
January 20	Club Roundtable; Reidel Glass	Coordinators: 2010 SHW President; Gin Yang-Staehlin

**Reminder:** Participants at monthly Club Meetings should bring their own wine glasses to use for wine tasting. Club wine glasses are provided for guests.



### From the Chief Judge

Don't forget to get your completed Winemaker of the Year entry forms to me or to any Executive Board member as soon as possible.

SHW Jubilee Gold, Silver and Bronze "bottle stickers" are available to adorn your winning wines. These are great looking stickers and are available – **six for a dollar**. Contact me via email or phone to get yours.

### SHW 2009 Board of Directors and Committee Chairs

President	Lynn Keay	(916) 990-5193	<a href="mailto:lynn.keay@gmail.com">lynn.keay@gmail.com</a>
Vice President/ Programs	D.D. Smith	(916) 638-8849	<a href="mailto:ddanjo@sbcglobal.net">ddanjo@sbcglobal.net</a>
Secretary	Donna Bettencourt	(916) 454-5487	<a href="mailto:bettencourt1045@softcom.net">bettencourt1045@softcom.net</a>
Treasurer	Mike Touchette	(530) 748-9677	<a href="mailto:pinotsyrah@yahoo.com">pinotsyrah@yahoo.com</a>
Membership Chairperson	Gin Yang-Staehlin	(916) 217-0294	<a href="mailto:ginyangstaehlin@yahoo.com">ginyangstaehlin@yahoo.com</a>
Newsletter Editor	Mike & Debbie Touchette	(530) 748-9677	<a href="mailto:pinotsyrah@yahoo.com">pinotsyrah@yahoo.com</a>
Chief Judge	D.D. Smith	(916) 638-8849	<a href="mailto:ddanjo@sbcglobal.net">ddanjo@sbcglobal.net</a>
Cellarmaster	Bill Staehlin	(916) 386-1753	<a href="mailto:bill.staehlin@sbcglobal.net">bill.staehlin@sbcglobal.net</a>
Webmaster	Lynn Keay	(916) 990-5193	<a href="mailto:lynn.keay@gmail.com">lynn.keay@gmail.com</a>
Past President (08)	Fred Millar	(916) 821-5915	<a href="mailto:fredmillar1@gmail.com">fredmillar1@gmail.com</a>
Past President (07)	Mike Touchette	(530) 748-9677	<a href="mailto:pinotsyrah@yahoo.com">pinotsyrah@yahoo.com</a>
Past President (06)	Judy Pinegar	(916) 652-5198	<a href="mailto:jpinegar@cde.ca.gov">jpinegar@cde.ca.gov</a>
Past President (05)	Ken Hough	(916) 456-7911	<a href="mailto:kennethahough@gmail.com">kennethahough@gmail.com</a>
Past Pres (04) & Historian	Gary Young	(916) 451-3893	<a href="mailto:gycats@earthlink.net">gycats@earthlink.net</a>

## Area Wine Events

**A Taste of Lodi**  
**Saturday, September 27 1-5 PM**  
**Wine and Roses Hotel, Lodi**



This extraordinary event features over 40 award winning Lodi wineries along with food selections from some of the area's finest restaurants and caterers. There are wine seminars that take place throughout the day, chef demonstrations, and live music. The Port, Cigar and Chocolate Pavilion will be a great place to pair wine with some complimentary treats. Don't miss this premier wine tasting event and a chance to experience the fabulous wine, food and talent that Lodi has to offer. Tickets are \$40 in advance or \$50 at the gate (if available). Last year was a complete sell out so buy your tickets early. You must be 21 years or over to purchase tickets and attend the event. Contact: (800) 798-1810.

**Amador Vintners**  
**The 2009 Big Crush Harvest Festival**  
**October 3-4 10 AM-4 PM**



Thirty participating member wineries of the Amador Vintners will host "The Big Crush", the vintners annual harvest wine festival. Amador aficionados can partake of great wine, food, music, and other harvest festivities amidst the scenic beauty of Amador Wine Country. More information can be found at [www.amadorwine.com](http://www.amadorwine.com).

**Auburn Wine and Wood Festival**  
**Saturday, October 10 1-5 PM**  
**Downtown and Old Town Auburn**



Wineries, including Lone Buffalo Vineyard and restaurants from in and around Placer County pair up to showcase their finest vino and edibles at the annual Wine And Food Festival, held in Downtown and Old Town Auburn. Stroll the streets between Downtown & Old Town or hop on one of the FREE shuttle buses. For more information, call 530-885-9644 or see [auburnwineandfood.com](http://auburnwineandfood.com).



**Cedar Creek Ranch & Vineyards**  
**2008 Estate Viognier Release Celebration**  
**Saturday October 17 Noon-4PM**



SHW club member Karen Woods invites the Sacramento Home Wine Winemakers to celebrate the release of Cedar Creek Ranch & Vineyards 2008 Estate Viognier. The event also includes barrel tasting of the winery's 2008 reds - Sangiovese, Syrah and Petite Sirah. For event details and to RSVP: [www.cedarcreekranchwinery.com](http://www.cedarcreekranchwinery.com)

**Sacramento SPCA  
23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Reigning Cats and Dogs Gala Event  
Saturday, October 24, 2009**



The Sacramento SPCA's premier food and wine tasting event, Reigning Cats & Dogs, is held at the Sacramento Convention Center. This black-tie optional event hosts more than 1,200 guests and features samples offered from more than thirty award-winning wineries (including M2 Wines) and microbrewers, and an equal number of gourmet restaurants. In addition and silent auction, an exclusive wine and art auction, raffle, live music entertainment complete the evening. For more info: [www.sspca.org](http://www.sspca.org).




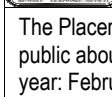

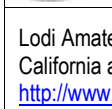
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## Newsletter Correction

The caption accompanying the Swap Meet photo in the August 2009 edition of *The Grapevine* is incorrect. Lynn was standing with Bill, the President of GCBA, not Erik the Brewmeister owner.

We apologize for the error.

## Neighbors – Home Winemaking Clubs

	<p>El Dorado Home Winemakers Club (EDHW) is an organization of amateur winemakers who enjoy the making and drinking of wine. The Club meets the second Tuesday of every month at the Sequoias Restaurant in Placerville. For club information, see their website at <a href="http://www.edhwm.com">http://www.edhwm.com</a>.</p>
	<p>The Placer County Wine and Grape Association (PCWGA) is a non-profit organization committed to informing and educating the public about Placer County wines, wineries, grape growers and grapes. PCWGA meets on the second Wednesday six times a year: February, April, June, August, October and December. For more info, check out their website <a href="http://www.placerwineandgrape.org">http://www.placerwineandgrape.org</a>.</p>
	<p>The purpose of the Amador Winemakers Association (AWA) is to organize, conduct, and/or attend discussions, lectures, field trips, experiments, and demonstrations regarding all aspects of grape growing and wine making. The AWA meets monthly on the third Thursday. Additional information can be found at <a href="http://www.amadorwinemakers.org">http://www.amadorwinemakers.org</a>.</p>
	<p>Lodi Amateur Vintners Association (LAVA) was founded in January 2001 for the purpose of promoting amateur wine making in the Lodi, California area. The Club generally meets the third Thursday of every month at the Lodi Wine and Visitor Center. Their website is <a href="http://www.lodiamateurvintners.org">http://www.lodiamateurvintners.org</a>.</p>

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# *Sacramento Home Winemakers*

## Winemaker of the Year Entry Form

This form contains results of judging conducted and medals awarded during Award Year \_\_\_\_\_, which ends on November 30<sup>th</sup> of said year.

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (day) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone (cell) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email \_\_\_\_\_

COMPETITION \_\_\_\_\_  
 Number of wines entered \_\_\_\_\_  
Points

No Award (0)	_____
Hon. Men. (10)	_____
Bronze (20)	_____
Silver (30)	_____
Gold (40)	_____
Double Gold (50)	_____
Best of _____(20)	_____
Best of Show (50)	_____
TOTAL	_____
<b>Total ÷ Entries = Ave.</b>	_____

COMPETITION \_\_\_\_\_  
 Number of wines entered \_\_\_\_\_  
Points

No Award (0)	_____
Hon. Men. (10)	_____
Bronze (20)	_____
Silver (30)	_____
Gold (40)	_____
Double Gold (50)	_____
Best of _____(20)	_____
Best of Show (50)	_____
TOTAL	_____
<b>Total ÷ Entries = Ave.</b>	_____

COMPETITION \_\_\_\_\_  
 Number of wines entered \_\_\_\_\_  
Points

No Award (0)	_____
Hon. Men. (10)	_____
Bronze (20)	_____
Silver (30)	_____
Gold (40)	_____
Double Gold (50)	_____
Best of _____(20)	_____
Best of Show (50)	_____
TOTAL	_____
<b>Total ÷ Entries = Ave.</b>	_____

Turn completed form into the Chief Judge or any Executive Board member.

**Total Points earned (Sum total of the three Average Points above):**

I certify that this entry is submitted in conformance with SHW Winemaker of the Year Selection Criteria.

/S/ \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# *Sacramento Home Winemakers*

## *Winemaker of the Year Selection Criteria*

The purpose of the Winemaker of the Year award is to encourage excellence in wine-making among all Club members. The best measure of excellence is the opinion of qualified judges in a structured competition environment. Accordingly, the following criteria were adopted by the Executive Board on July 1, 2009.

The annual winner of the ***Winemaker of the Year*** award shall be the candidate who accrues the most Total Points in the Award Year as follows:

- Candidates for this award must be members of SHW, Inc. in good standing who are not the owners, winemakers or employees of licensed commercial winemaking concerns, except as set forth below.
- Candidates who are owners, winemakers or employees of commercial winemaking concerns, but who are otherwise qualified, may submit wines for competition provided that such wines were made and bottled prior to the effective date of their winegrower's license.
- Candidates must certify that the wines they submit for competition are 100% home made wines created by the candidate without any hands-on assistance from a commercial winemaking concern as described above. *Consultation* with commercial winemakers and educators is encouraged by the Club.
- Candidates must compete in three (3) recognized wine competitions during the Award Year.
- The Award Year runs from December 1<sup>st</sup> of the prior calendar year to November 30<sup>th</sup> of the subject calendar year.
- A competition is considered to have been in the Award Year if the actual judging is conducted and medals awarded during the Award Year.
- Among the competitions entered, one must be the SHW Jubilee and one must be the California State Fair.
- Points will be awarded as follows:

*No award - 0*  
*Honorable Mention – 10*  
*Bronze Award – 20*  
*Silver Award – 30*  
*Gold Award – 40*  
*Double-Gold Award -- 50*

*Best Varietal/Red/White/Dessert/Fruit - 20 additional points*  
*Best of Show - 50 additional points*

*Points ÷ Number of Entries = Average Points*

*Total Points: The sum total of all Average Points from all three competitions entered.*

*The Winemaker of the Year is the candidate who earns the most Total Points.*

- Candidates will be provided forms to fill out which will guide the calculation of the Total Point score.
- The Chief Judge will verify all competitive entries and submit the top scorers to a panel of past presidents for approval.
- The scores of the top five finishers will be publicized to all Club members.